

Attention Media: There will be a pre-event from 2:00-2:30pm where the 2015 STEP-UP Employer of the Year, STEP-UP Intern of the Year, and STEP-UP Supervisor of the Year award winners will be available for interviews and photos. Contact [Rose Lindsay](#) at 612.250.8661 for more information or check-in at the Guthrie Theater event registration desk the day of the event to be directed to the pre-event space.



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Community Planning and Economic Development Media Advisory

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For Immediate Release

City of Minneapolis STEP-UP Youth Employment Program to Celebrate 12th Annual Intern Graduation at Guthrie Theater

**Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges, STEP-UP Co-Chairs R.T. Rybak and Richard Davis to join
hundreds of STEP-UP youth and employers Monday, August 10**

WHAT: On Monday, August 10, 2015, the City of Minneapolis STEP-UP youth employment program will celebrate the graduation of its 12th cohort of interns, a group of more than 1,600 youth ages 14 to 21 who worked at over 220 top Twin Cities nonprofits, government agencies, small businesses, and corporations this summer. The celebration, themed *Jobs Today - Skills for Life*, will take place from 2:30-4:00pm at the Guthrie Theatre.

The celebration will kick off with a performance by former City of Minneapolis intern, now internationally renowned musician, radio host, educator, and community organizer, Toki Wright at 2:30pm. Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges will then announce the 2015 STEP-UP Employer of the Year award winners, followed by intern reflections and the presentation of the 2015 STEP-UP Intern and Employer Awards by STEP-UP Co-Chairs R.T. Rybak and Richard Davis. The

program will close with a dynamic dance performance by Iny Asian Theater and Asian Media Access, a STEP-UP employer.

To watch the STEP-UP *Jobs Today, Skills for Life* event live on Twitter follow hashtag #STEPUPMPLS [@Growingmpls](#).

WHEN: Monday, August 10, 2015
2:30-4:00 p.m.

PROGRAM

- Performance by Toki Wright
- 2015 STEP-UP Employer of the Year Awards presented by Minneapolis Mayor Betsy Hodges
- Intern Reflections from Abdirahim Mohamed, STEP-UP Discover Intern at Tree Trust and Lor Vang, STEP-UP Achieve Intern at UCare
- 2015 STEP-UP Intern Awards presented by R.T. Rybak, STEP-UP Founder and Co-Chair/Executive Director, Generation Next
- 2015 STEP-UP Supervisor Awards presented by Richard Davis, Chair, President and CEO, U.S. Bank
- Dance Performance by Iny Asian Dance Theater and Asian Media Access

WHERE: Guthrie Theatre
Wurtele Thrust Stage
818 South 2nd Street
Minneapolis, MN 55415

MORE: The City of Minneapolis STEP-UP program is a partnership with AchieveMpls, Department of Employment and Economic Development (DEED), and Project for Pride in Living. As one of the country's premiere youth employment programs, STEP-UP serves Minneapolis youth and young adults age 14-21 who face some of the greatest barriers to employment, including youth from low-income families, youth of color, and youth with disabilities.

Since the program was launched in 2004, it has provided over 20,000 internship opportunities. STEP-UP interns explore diverse career interests, gain valuable on-the-job skills, make strong professional connections, and prepare for meaningful careers. Most interns receive 7-14 hours of work-readiness training certified by the Minneapolis Regional Chamber of Commerce. STEP-UP also offers advanced internships and industry-specific trainings and certifications in partnership with local industry leaders. Learn more about STEP-UP at the [City of Minneapolis website](#).

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